

HOW JON'S WORKING TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

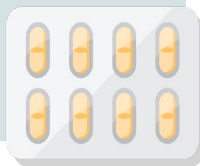


Jon has been holding listening sessions and town halls all across the state to hear directly from folks on the ground about health care. At every meeting, Montanans have overwhelming said that Congress needs to take action and lower prescription drug costs, so that's exactly what Jon's been doing.

HOLDING BIG PHARMA ACCOUNTABLE

One way Jon is fighting to lower prescription drug costs is by shedding more light on how drug companies set their prices. Currently, pharmaceutical companies are not required to publicly justify a drastic increase in drug prices. So Jon introduced the **Stopping the Pharmaceutical Industry from Keeping Drugs Expensive (SPIKE) Act**, which requires drug companies to disclose their rationale for any excessive increase in the price of a drug.

A number of pharmaceutical companies have been accused of using stalling tactics to block the development of cheaper generic alternatives to their brand name drugs. The FDA has received over 100 complaints from generic drug makers caught up in this red tape. That's why Jon is supporting the **CREATES Act**, to address two major stalling tactics used by Big Pharma. Jon's bill will not only help get more generic options on the market and reduce drug prices for everyday Americans, but the Congressional Budget Office estimates it could decrease the federal deficit by \$3.3 billion over 10 years by giving Medicare access to cheaper alternatives.



WORKING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION

Unfortunately, Congress is dysfunctional and Montanans need relief from high prescription drug prices now. That's why **Jon has reached out to President Trump directly**, offering to work with him to lower prescription drugs costs and increase access to health care throughout Montana. Jon wants a bipartisan health care solution that lowers premiums, limits out-of-pocket expenses for rural families, and expands access to health insurance for Montanans.

Jon also helped pass the **FDA Reauthorization Act**, a law requiring the FDA to review applications for high-demand generic drugs within eight months. This will help get more generics into the market faster, increase competition, and drive down prices.

SAVING SENIORS MONEY

Another reason health care costs are rising is a growing bureaucracy that employs hundreds of middlemen. For example, pharmacists must work with Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs) to collect payment under Medicare Part D. PBMs collect a fee up front, but recently some have been coming back weeks or months later and charging these pharmacies even more. All of these costs then get passed onto the consumer. That's why Jon introduced the bipartisan **Improving Transparency and Accuracy in Medicare Part D Drug Spending Act**, which prohibits PBMs from retroactively charging pharmacies for their service.



Jon's **Creating Transparency to Have Rebates Unlocked (C-THRU) Act** would also require PBMs to shed light on their agreements with drug companies, pharmacies, and insurance companies, so folks can understand how much of a drug's cost is administrative. This bill would also lower costs for seniors who are charged for drugs under Medicare Part D.

Jon also recently voted to close the Medicare Part D donut hole a year early, saving Montana seniors millions on their prescriptions. Medicare Part D covers 75% of prescription drug costs under a certain annual amount. If someone's annual total exceeds that amount, they fall into what is known as the Part D "donut hole." Prior to the passage of the *Affordable Care Act* in 2010, folks who fell into the donut hole were forced to pay 100% out-of-pocket for their prescriptions. Thanks to the ACA, the donut hole has gradually narrowed since 2010 and was scheduled to fully close in 2020. Under the budget bill Jon helped pass in March, the donut hole will now close a year early, capping the amount Medicare Part D recipients have to pay for their prescription at 25%, regardless of the total cost of their drugs.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER